

The Book of Job Home Group Notes 3
Job 4:1 – 7:21 Do we reap what we sow?

Set the scene: Do you remember the Mr Men? like Mr Bashful and Little Miss Sunshine? If you were a Mister Man or a Little Miss, what might you be called? What would Job be called?

Hear from God: Read Job 4:1-8

If things go badly, it is not normally because we have sinned

1. Sometimes we suffer because we have done wrong. Can you think of an example in your life or another's?
2. Eliphaz is suggesting this is the general rule. How does he say it in 4:7-8?
3. Do you think it is true for everyone? Is it a general rule? In this life, do we reap what we sow?

Suffering is part of God's purpose, revealing how He works

4. For seven days Eliphaz had nothing to say, but as soon as Job says something - something he disagrees with - Eliphaz has lots to say? Is that good? How can we avoid this sort of knee-jerk reaction when we help others?
5. **Read 5:17-27** For Eliphaz, what is always the purpose of suffering? What happens for the person who repents of their sin? Is this a hopeful helpful message for Job?
6. Similar thinking is shown in John 9:1-2. People can be much too quick to assume that misfortune must point to hidden sins. Or that a disastrous setback points to the need for more humble repentance of sin. What did Jesus say to the moralizing disciples in John 9?
7. Do you agree with Jesus that innocent suffering is part of God's good purposes? Can you make sense of this?

8. Have you known attempts to console the sufferer which have only deepened the distress of the sufferer?

9. **Read Job 6-7** quietly How does Job describe his anguish (6:1-7)?

10. What does Job wish would happen & why (8-13)?

11. How does Job feel about Eliphaz' advice (14-30)?

12. How does Job feel towards God (7:11-21)?

Apply these things to your life

13. Reflect on some experience where you have heard believers be painfully honest with God. How have you reacted? What reaction would you take in future?
14. Since Job is clear that his sufferings are from God (although he doesn't understand why), he thinks it right to pray honestly (7) & complain (11-21) to God. Do you?
15. Eliphaz in effect tells Job to shut up and receive his discipline like he should. How does Job respond (7:11ff)? How would you respond?
16. If you were comforting Job, what might a compassionate response look like? What would you say to a friend in similar despair?
17. Luke 13:1ff is another place where Jesus addresses the issue of sin and suffering. How would you maintain the truth that our sins will be judged at the last while, at the same time, dismissing the idea that present setbacks are normally due to past sins?

Prayer ideas

- Thank God that his purposes include the suffering of his faithful servant and thank Jesus for his innocent suffering for us & others.
- Pray for good counsel for those who are need good counsel
- Pray for You & Yours, Stockport Christian Counselling and others